In the Claims

1-19 (canceled)

20 (currently amended). A method for suppressing or inhibiting allergen-specific IgE production, said method comprising administering an effective amount of interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau, ~~or a chimeric interferon~~ to a person or animal in need of suppression or inhibition of allergen-specific IgE production, ~~wherein said chimeric interferon comprises a mammalian interferon tau amino terminus and a human type I interferon carboxy terminus other than interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon~~.

21 (previously presented). The method according to claim 20, wherein said suppression or inhibition of IgE production occurs through inhibition of B-cell IgE secretion or inhibition of B-cell proliferation.

22 (currently amended). The method according to claim 20, wherein said interferon tau ~~or said chimeric interferon~~ is administered by ~~routes~~ a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, parenteral administration, subcutaneous administration and intravenous administration.

23 (previously presented). The method according to claim 20, wherein said person or animal is afflicted with, or predisposed to, an IgE-related condition, wherein said condition is an allergic condition.

24 (previously presented). The method according to claim 23, wherein said allergic condition is selected from the group consisting of allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, bronchial asthma and food allergy.

25 (currently amended). The method according to claim 20, wherein said interferon tau ~~or said chimeric interferon~~ is administered *in vitro*.

26 (currently amended). The method according to claim 20, wherein said interferon tau ~~or said chimeric interferon~~ is formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

27 (previously presented). The method according to claim 20, wherein said interferon tau is a mammalian interferon tau.

28 (currently amended). A method for suppressing or inhibiting proliferation of an IgE-producing cell, said method comprising administering an effective amount of interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferau tau, ~~or a chimeric interferon~~ to a person or animal in need of suppressing or inhibiting proliferation of IgE-producing cells~~, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises a mammalian interferon tau amino terminus and a human type I interferon carboxy terminus other than interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon~~.

29 (currently amended). The method according to claim 28, wherein said interferon tau ~~or said chimeric interferon~~ is administered by ~~routes~~ a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, parenteral administration, subcutaneous administration and intravenous administration.

30 (previously presented). The method according to claim 28, wherein said person or animal is afflicted with, or predisposed to, an IgE-related condition, wherein said condition is an allergic condition.

31 (previously presented). The method according to claim 30, wherein said allergic condition is selected from the group consisting of allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, bronchial asthma and food allergy.

32 (currently amended). The method according to claim 28, wherein said interferon tau ~~or said chimeric interferon~~ is administered *in vitro*.

33 (currently amended). The method according to claim 28, wherein said interferon tau ~~or said chimeric interferon~~ is formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

34 (previously presented). The method according to claim 28, wherein said interferon tau is a mammalian interferon tau.

35 (currently amended). A method for suppressing or inhibiting allergen-specific IgE production, said method comprising identifying a person or animal in need of suppression or inhibition of allergen-specific IgE production and administering an effective amount of interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau, ~~or a chimeric interferon~~ to said person or animal~~, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises a mammalian interferon tau amino terminus and a human type I interferon carboxy terminus other than interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon~~.